

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Ian Villafuerte. I am a student from East Hartford.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 284: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,” with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

I grew up in the state of Connecticut, and I am currently a senior at Connecticut River Academy in East Hartford. Along with school, I currently hold a part time job at Stop and Shop, and will soon be attending university at UNH. I have only lived in Connecticut, but both of my parents were born in South America, and came to North America at later points in their lives.

Currently, my family and I have access to stable healthcare and insurance. Due to this, we are able to purchase any medications that we require, able to attend our checkups, visits to the eye doctor, and many more. Having had access to healthcare and insurance, I can’t say for sure what it is like for these individuals that do not have healthcare/ insurance, but I can imagine that it would be a lot more stressful because of what could happen if something were to unfold. This of course is especially relevant given the pandemic and the massive threat to wellness that this has posed for so many.

This bill would definitely benefit individuals that currently are not allowed healthcare or insurance because of these restrictions. It would allow people to feel safer in the case of anything happening, and it could most definitely have a positive impact on many lives all across the state. It is shameful to think that in a state like CT and in the United States, children would have to worry about being “children.” Kids get hurt, and it is our obligation to protect them. Financially, granting access to health insurance is also a more proactive rather than reactive solution for the state. It prevents untreated childhood concerns from manifesting into bigger, more expensive problems later in life.

I support S.B. No 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Ian Villafuerte